

Roger is committed to his community, as exemplified by involvement in the Seacoast Housing Partnership, a nonprofit organization dedicated to affordable housing issues; the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee to improve the environment of Pierce Island; the Greater Seacoast Economic Summit; and his volunteer work to help many local citizens in poverty.

Most importantly, Roger is committed to his family. He and his wife, Elaine, have been married for 27 years. They have three grown children, Roger, Jr., Emily, and Melissa. His family can be very proud of his achievements, and glad that they will finally have him around for breakfast!

My interviews with Roger always left us sharing a laugh and, though he rarely took any of my suggestions for use in the "Joke Du Jour," his resulting stories were always fair, thorough, and forthright as is always Roger's style. As he embraces future endeavors in the field of communications and public relations, I wish Roger Wood all the best. I am proud to represent him in the United States Senate, and proud to call him my friend.●

EDWARD LELACHEUR

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I want to call the Senate's attention to Representative Edward LeLecheur and his long history of service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The citizens of Massachusetts have benefitted from his many years of service and legislative leadership. Representative LeLecheur has distinguished himself as a community leader, an elected official and a family man.

Edward LeLecheur started out as the proprietor of Stolphine's Market in Lowell, MA. This small grocery store is located in the part of Lowell known as the Sacred Heart, named for the nearby Catholic church. Ed expanded his role in the community by running for and winning elected office in 1975. Since then, he has served the eighteenth Middlesex District for twenty-three years in the same way he served Stolphine's customers: one at a time, with integrity, dedication, and compassion.

Representative LeLecheur's giving spirit has manifested itself in a variety of ways. He drives physically challenged people to the Registry of Motor Vehicles, and purchases turkeys at Thanksgiving and Christmas time which he then delivers door-to-door. Those same people, and countless others, enjoy the baseball stadium which Representative LeLecheur helped bring to Lowell. Due to Ed LeLecheur, our national pastime is now part of the ongoing revitalization of Merrimack Valley, bringing prosperity and entertainment to families from all the surrounding communities.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee for the past twelve years and as the current chair of the Committee on Personnel and Administration, Representative LeLecheur has

also extended his spirit and service beyond his district. The state has been well served as a result of his leadership.

Representative LeLecheur has been successful not only as a state representative, but also as a family man. He and his wife Eileen were married on June 4, 1947, more than fifty years ago. Together they raised six children and are today the proud grandparents of ten grandsons and granddaughters.

Mr. President, I would like to thank him for his tireless devotion to his constituents and neighbors. Representative LeLecheur is an inspiration to all of us who work for positive change in our communities. I wish him and Eileen the very best as they embark on this new chapter in life.●

U.N. WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the United Nations World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, which took place on June 17, 1998. This date is important because it is the fourth anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. The United States has signed this treaty, but the Senate has yet to exercise its advice and consent responsibilities on this important convention.

The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought should serve as a reminder to this body that we should honor our constitutional responsibilities and act on this convention in a timely manner. As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on African Affairs, I have had the opportunity to see first-hand how valuable the provisions of this convention will be to the people of Africa. It is a mechanism by which the people of Africa will be assisted in preserving and protecting their land, which is a vital link in Africa's fight to become self-sufficient.

This convention is particularly important for Africa because more than two-thirds of the land comprising that continent is desert or dry land, and almost three-quarters of the dry land used for farming is in danger of becoming unusable. The Sahelian droughts of 1971-73 and 1984-85 contributed to the deaths of thousands and spurred migration that put further stress on already taxed land around Africa.

This Convention to Combat Desertification, which has already been ratified by 120 countries, establishes a framework to promote land and soil health in developing countries, in order to halt the kind of neglect that eventually leads to land that is unusable for farming. This convention is innovative because it requires participation from all segments of the population, from the farmers and herders who work the land, to local governments and envi-

ronmental organizations, to those who affect environmental and agricultural policy at the national and regional levels.

I hope that the Senate will act on this convention in a timely manner, and that next year's anniversary of the Convention to Combat Desertification will be marked by progress in the world's efforts to protect the land and soil that sustains life in developing countries.●

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I call for the regular order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report S. 2057.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2057) to authorize appropriations for the fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Pending:

Feinstein amendment No. 2405, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the Indian nuclear tests.

Brownback amendment No. 2407 (to amendment No. 2405), to repeal a restriction on the provision of certain assistance and other transfers to Pakistan.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h-276k, as amended, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate Delegation to the Mexico-U.S. Interparliamentary Group Meeting during the Second Session of the 105th Congress, to be held in Morelia, Mexico, June 19-21, 1998: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, in executive session, I ask unanimous consent the Indian Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of the nomination of Michael Trujillo to be Director of the Indian Health Service Department of Health and Human Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COCHRAN. I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to its consideration and further ask consent that the Senate also proceed en bloc to the consideration of Calendar No. 625. I finally ask consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider